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our intervention, according to a quotation from Professor Woolsey, was justified "by the burden of neutrality, the dictates of our commercial interests, and the call of humanity." We may not all agree that intervention in Cuba was justified; but expansion, or imperialism as it is now called, which aims to give better government to new territory acquired, whether wise or not, is at least less immoral than conquest to spread slavery. So far the argument applies more strongly to Texas than to the comparatively unsettled California. (b) But there is still another motive advanced for the war. Mr. Owen assembles a rather formidable array of authorities to show that there was real danger, not a mere convenient fear that Texas and California would be virtually controlled by England or France, or at least, Mr. Owen maintains Americans would have had many reasons honestly to believe that to be the case. Since Mexico could not control these territories, intervention by the United States was therefore a defense of the Monroe Doctrine, and when the Monroe Doctrine is applied to territory as near and as important, to that of the United States as Texas or California was, it can hardly be called highly immoral. (c) And besides these two constructive arguments furnishing motives for the Mexican War which may have been at least honest, Mr. Owen collects some very interesting facts which tend to show the negative of the general statement that United States officers sent overbearing messages to Texas, acted dishonestly with regard to boundaries, and did other things which lend color to the theory that the war was forced on Mexico to gain more slave territory. Mr. Owen's contention that great historians have in these cases followed theory rather than facts has more force than can be attributed simply to the desire of the American readers to believe that his country was not to be despised.

Not all of Mr. Owen's points and suggestions can be noticed here, nor any of them carefully weighed. But there is space for a little broader criticism of his work. American history is not yet so old that we can be sure that we have an impersonal point of view. In another case it was left for John Fiske to show that among the Tories at the time of the Revolution there were many honorable and heroic men. And that the patriots fought for independence against such men, rather than scoundrels only, is no discredit to the patriots. So in the present case it may be that those who tried to spread slavery were not all dishonest and that in the Mexican War they acted from honest motives. If this volume prompts some historian to weigh all the evidence and give a true, unbiased history of the Mexican War times, it will have fulfilled, as the author says on his closing page, one of its most important purposes. P. K.

POWERS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. By Masuji Miyakawa. Second edition. New York: The Baker & Taylor Company. 1908. pp. xiv, 431. 8vo.

The first edition has been revised and enlarged. Covering such a wide field of investigation, the author does not profess within the limited space to treat his subject exhaustively as does Bryce in "The American Commonwealth," but in presenting a comprehensive study of the Constitution and its workings he shows a remarkable insight into American institutions. He considers separately the powers of the American people, Congress, the President and the courts. Enough constitutional history is gone into to show the origin of the particular power treated, and the substance of the decisions, with apt quotations, construing it is set forth. The contrast with similar powers in the governments of Europe and Japan makes the work particularly instructive for foreign readers, especially the Japanese. The book is more than a survey of American constitutional government; it presents a general picture of the American nation. In many respects this is a picture of what we ought to be rather than what we are. The scholarly and interesting treatment should appeal not only to the student of government and law but to the general reader.

In the appendices are printed the Magna Charta, Constitution of Japan, Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, and Constitution of the United States.

R. T. H.